

# Silver dollars to mark Korean War's conclusion

By Roger Boye

**U**nkle Sam will produce silver proof sets once again and also issue 1991 silver dollars commemorating the end of the Korean War, thanks to legislation passed last month in the waning days of the 101st Congress.

But lawmakers failed to approve other important coinage bills, including a proposal calling for new designs on circulating money.

Under one of the new laws, Treasury officials will strike some dimes, quarters and halves out of a mixture of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper, the standard metal composition used for those three denominations before 1965. All the silver pieces will be sold to collectors as part of proof sets encased in plastic.

With passage of the Korean War coinage bill, the U. S. Mint will be forced to run three commemorative coin programs next year. The other two—approved by Congress

earlier this year—are a silver dollar marking the 50th anniversary of the United Service Organizations and three coin types honoring the 50th anniversary of Mount Rushmore.

In testimony to Congress last summer, U. S. Mint Director Donna Pope warned that coin sales would suffer if the government attempted to run more than one commemorative program in the same time period. Profits from the sale of the Korean War dollars will help to pay for construction of a memorial in Washington.

Meanwhile, the U. S. House failed to pass legislation calling for new designs on "tails sides" of the five circulating coin types even though the Senate had approved it several times. In early October, the Bush administration said it opposed new designs, in part because it believes the public does not want them and because stable designs are symbols of a sound national economy.